

House File 2116 - Introduced

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BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a reduced-fee lunch assistance fund to
2 provide moneys to educational facilities to further reduce
3 the cost of reduced-fee lunches for eligible children and
4 making appropriations.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **283A.6 Reduced-fee lunches — state**
2 **assistance.**

3 1. *a.* A reduced-fee lunch assistance fund is created in
4 the state treasury under the authority of the department of
5 education. For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1,
6 2020, there is appropriated from the general fund of the state
7 to the department of education an amount necessary, but not to
8 exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars, to fund the
9 payment of all reduced-fee lunch assistance payments under this
10 section for the fiscal year.

11 *b.* Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
12 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to
13 the fund. Moneys in the fund are not subject to the provisions
14 of section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
15 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided in
16 this section.

17 2. In order to provide educational facilities with funding
18 to provide additional assistance to children in kindergarten
19 through grade five who are eligible for reduced-fee meals under
20 the federal National School Lunch Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1751
21 et seq., and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C.
22 §1771 et seq., the department of education shall annually
23 calculate and pay to each educational facility a reduced-fee
24 lunch assistance payment. Each reduced-fee lunch assistance
25 payment shall be the proportionate share of the balance of the
26 reduced-fee lunch assistance fund following deposit of the
27 appropriation for the fiscal year under subsection 1 that is
28 equal to the proportion of the educational facility's share of
29 the statewide number of children in kindergarten through grade
30 five who are eligible for reduced-fee meals under the federal
31 National School Lunch Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1751 et seq.,
32 and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1771
33 et seq.

34 3. Each educational facility shall use funds received under
35 this section for the purpose of further reducing the cost of

1 lunches purchased by children in kindergarten through grade
 2 five who are eligible for reduced-fee meals under the federal
 3 National School Lunch Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1751 et seq.,
 4 and the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1771
 5 et seq. If the amount received by the educational facility
 6 exceeds the amount necessary to provide free lunches to all
 7 children in kindergarten through grade five who are eligible
 8 for reduced-fee meals, the excess amount shall be used to
 9 reduce the cost of lunches purchased by children in grades six
 10 through twelve who are eligible for reduced-fee meals.

11 4. For purposes of this section, "*educational facility*"
 12 means a school district, nonpublic school, or children's
 13 residential facility, as defined in section 237C.1.

14 Sec. 2. Section 298A.11, Code 2020, is amended to read as
 15 follows:

16 **298A.11 School nutrition fund.**

17 1. A school nutrition fund is an enterprise fund. A school
 18 nutrition fund must be established in any school corporation
 19 receiving moneys from the school meal program authorized under
 20 chapter 283A.

21 2. Moneys received by the school district under section
 22 283A.6 shall be deposited in a reduced-fee lunch assistance
 23 account within the school nutrition fund to be used by the
 24 school district only for the purposes authorized under section
 25 283A.6, subsection 3. Amounts received under section 283A.6
 26 shall be considered miscellaneous income for purposes of
 27 chapter 257. A school district may also deposit available
 28 moneys from the school district's general fund into the
 29 reduced-fee lunch assistance account to be used for the
 30 purposes of section 283A.6, subsection 3.

31 **EXPLANATION**

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
 33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill establishes a reduced-fee lunch assistance fund
 35 under the authority of the department of education for the

1 purpose of providing educational facilities with funding to
2 provide additional assistance to children in kindergarten
3 through grade five who are eligible for reduced-fee meals under
4 federal law. The bill defines "educational facility" to mean a
5 school district, nonpublic school, or children's residential
6 facility, as defined in Code section 237C.1.

7 For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2020,
8 the bill appropriates from the general fund of the state to
9 the reduced-fee lunch assistance fund an amount necessary to
10 fund reduced-fee lunch assistance payments under the program,
11 but not to exceed \$1.5 million. Each reduced-fee lunch
12 assistance payment shall be the proportionate share of the
13 balance of the reduced-fee lunch assistance fund that is equal
14 to the proportion of the educational facility's share of the
15 statewide number of children in kindergarten through grade
16 five who are eligible for reduced-fee meals under federal law.
17 Amounts received by each educational facility shall be used
18 to further reduce the cost of lunches purchased by children
19 in kindergarten through grade five who are eligible for
20 reduced-fee meals. If the amount received by the educational
21 facility exceeds the amount necessary to provide free lunches
22 to all eligible children in kindergarten through grade five,
23 the excess amount shall be used to reduce the cost of lunches
24 purchased by eligible children in grades 6 through 12.

25 The bill also authorizes a school district to deposit
26 available moneys from the school district's general fund into
27 the reduced-fee lunch assistance account created in the school
28 nutrition fund to be used for the purposes established in the
29 bill.